



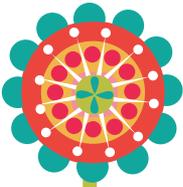
Luke 8:4-15

a seed to sow

Thou Art Exalted Ministries



Freshly Picked By:



THOUARTEXALTED, INC.

Creating Art through God's Word

A Seed to Sow •

Part of the FIVE Small Group Series

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•HOW TO USE THIS STUDY•



Welcome to **A Seed to Sow** and part of ThouArtExalted's FIVE Small Group Series.

A Seed to Sow explores the Parable of the Sower in Luke 8:1-15. Each lesson will look at a fungus and an opposite fertilizer. The fungus represents ALL that takes our hearts and minds away from God while the fertilizer is the active ingredient that keeps our hearts and minds focused on God. **A Seed to Sow** will give us the gardening tools we need to prepare the soil of our hearts to receive His Word.

Here is an outline of our lessons together.

- Fungus: SPEED — Fertilizer: SIT DOWN AND BE STILL
- Fungus: WORLDLY WATER — Fertilizer: LIVING WATER
- Fungus: DON'T CHOKE — Fertilizer: FOCUS ON CHRIST
- Fungus: BAD SOIL — Fertilizer: GOOD SOIL
- Fungus: BUG SPRAY — Fertilizer: MAINTAINING THE GARDEN

You can either use this study by yourself or preferably in a small group setting. Here are some suggestions:

- Begin each lesson by reading **The Parable of the Sower** and the **Scripture** aloud.
- Next, look at the **Fungus** and **Fertilizer** of the Day and discuss the differences.
- Read **Fresh From the Garden** to answer the foundational questions.
- **Bloom Where You Are Planted** takes you to the main content of the lesson followed by FIVE questions.
- **Seeds to Sow** wraps up the lesson and puts real life perspective on the Biblical text.
- Each day wraps up with a **Challenge** section to plant God's Word even deeper. Having a journal close at hand is a good idea to write down your thoughts.

Our desire at ThouArtExalted is to equip girls to know God's Word. A Seed to Sow was written as a reminder to dig our roots deep into Scripture to find strength and direction. While there are many fungi that try to counteract the power of God's love, nothing can be uprooted when we believe in Jesus Christ. If you have any questions about the study, have a prayer request, or want more information about the FIVE small group studies, please contact us at www.thouartexalted.com. We are praying for you at TAE!

With joy ~ *Annie*

Annie and the TAE team.





LESSON ONE



The Parable OF THE SOWER



“While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: ‘A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up.’”
Luke 8:4-5 (NIV)

STORY

“This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.” Luke 8:11-12 (NIV)

MEANING



Fungus

SPEED NEVER SATISFIES

FRESH FROM THE GARDEN.

Welcome to *A Seed To Sow*! Our first lesson from **Fresh From The Garden** finds us listening to Jesus as He teaches a large crowd about the GOOD NEWS of God’s Kingdom. Jesus often teaches through parables, or stories. Today’s story is called: *The Parable of the Sower*. Each lesson, we will look at two aspects of this parable: The story and the meaning of the story. **Fresh From The Garden** will cover the story. **Bloom Where You Are Planted** will cover the meaning. Let’s get started and read Luke 8:1-5.

First, let’s answer some **foundational questions** about this parable. We will ask these questions each lesson. It’s the who, what, when, where, and why. Don’t worry, you are not in English class, and there won’t be a quiz. Well, maybe!

- Who is the main character? _____
- What does he do in this story? _____
- What does “sow” mean? _____
- Where does the seed fall? _____
- What happens to this seed? _____

When a seed is planted, what is expected to happen? Yes. It is expected to grow into the purpose God has for it. But in this case, what happens? The seed has no time to grow because it is stepped on. (Not to mention the pesky birds that swoop down and eat it up.) The seed is scattered on the path. How is a seed supposed to grow in this environment?

•BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED.

As a quick reminder, **Bloom Where You Are Planted** is where we will discuss the meaning of the story. Let's begin by reading Luke 8:11-12 and answer more **foundational questions** about this parable.

- What is the seed? _____
- Describe those along the path where the seed has fallen. _____
- What happens to the seed? _____
- Who snatches it away? _____
- Why does Satan want to snatch away the seed (the Word of God)? _____

Satan is not someone we usually talk about. But the reality is, he is the evil villain that is doing his best to take away God's truth from our hearts. Jesus uses the Parable of the Sower to warn us against his evil deeds. Today, we will learn that one of his tactics is **speed!** The quicker he can snatch the truth, the better. Satan can be fast, but always remember—God is faster. God is warning us about his trick of speed and giving us a battle plan!



Fertilizer

SIT DOWN AND BE STILL

•SEEDS TO SOW.

Would you agree that life is super fast? We have fast food, fast internet, texting, Instagram, and Facebook. We even get annoyed when we have to wait for something! Satan knows this, too. The Fungus of the Day (Satan's trick) is: **Speed**. When we are so busy thinking about the next best thing, we miss out on the present moment. Have you ever been too busy for God? When we are speeding through life, it's hard to find time to SIT DOWN AND BE STILL. But that's exactly what God wants us to do. Why? Slowing down gives the seed **time** to grow. Read Psalm 46:10 and answer the questions.

"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

- **What is God telling us to do in order to get to know Him? • Why do you think being still is important? • How is this the opposite of SPEED?**

Open up your Bibles and read James 1:19-21.

- **How is the word QUICK used in this verse? • How is the word SLOW used? • Why should we accept the Word PLANTED in us?**

God knows that the seed is the WORD of God planted in our hearts to help us GROW and KNOW He is God. The Word is the Bible which teaches us about God. When we are STILL, knowing and believing in God, we are sowing a rich relationship with Him. And it ALL begins with a **seed**. If we are too busy, allowing the fast pace of this world to distract us, we will never experience the overflowing goodness of God's Word PLANTED into our hearts. Planting takes TIME. Today, let's make it a point to SIT and spend time in the Word of God.

Challenge: How are you going to SLOW down to spend more time with God? Explain. 5